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Spirocyclic Nonpeptide Glycoprotein IIb–IIIa Antagonists. Part 1: Design of Potent and Specific 3,9-Diazaspiro[5.5]undecanes

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Abstract—The synthesis and biological activity of novel glycoprotein IIb–IIIa antagonists containing the 3,9-diazaspiro[5.5]-undecane nucleus are described. The potent activity of these compounds as platelet aggregation inhibitors demonstrates the utility of the spirocyclic structures as a central template for nonpeptide RGD mimics. © 2001 Elsevier Science Ltd. All rights reserved.

The activation and aggregation of platelets is a critical component of arterial thrombosis and leads to a number of cardiovascular disease states including unstable angina, myocardial infarction, and arterial re-occlusion following coronary angioplasty procedures.[1,2] By preventing the final common pathway of platelet aggregation, fibrinogen receptor antagonists [also termed platelet glycoprotein (GP) IIb–IIIa antagonists] have been demonstrated to be more potent antiplatelet agents than other classes of drugs that inhibit specific platelet activation pathways such as aspirin, or the ADP receptor antagonists ticlopidine or clopidogrel.[3,4]

In the design of potent GPIIb–IIIa antagonists, the tripeptide sequence RGD has been utilized as the starting motif for generating many structurally diverse inhibitors.[4,5] A vast majority of the synthetic efforts have focused on developing novel templates onto which an acidic and a basic pharmacophore are appended which mimic the RGD sequence. Many of the reported antagonists contain constrained templates consisting of monocyclic and/or fused bicyclics ring structures.[4,6,7] Oral antagonists with some of these features have proceeded into large phase III clinical trials including xemilofiban, orbofiban, sibrafiban, and lotrafiban

(Fig. 1). Although the discovery of structurally diverse templates leading to potent antagonists has been quite extensive, one type of constrained template that has received little attention contains spirocyclic ring systems. One example of a spirocyclic template in the GPIIb–IIIa antagonist field has been disclosed by the Dupont-Merck group.[8] Their efforts employing a spiro-isoxazolinylimide central template resulted in weakly
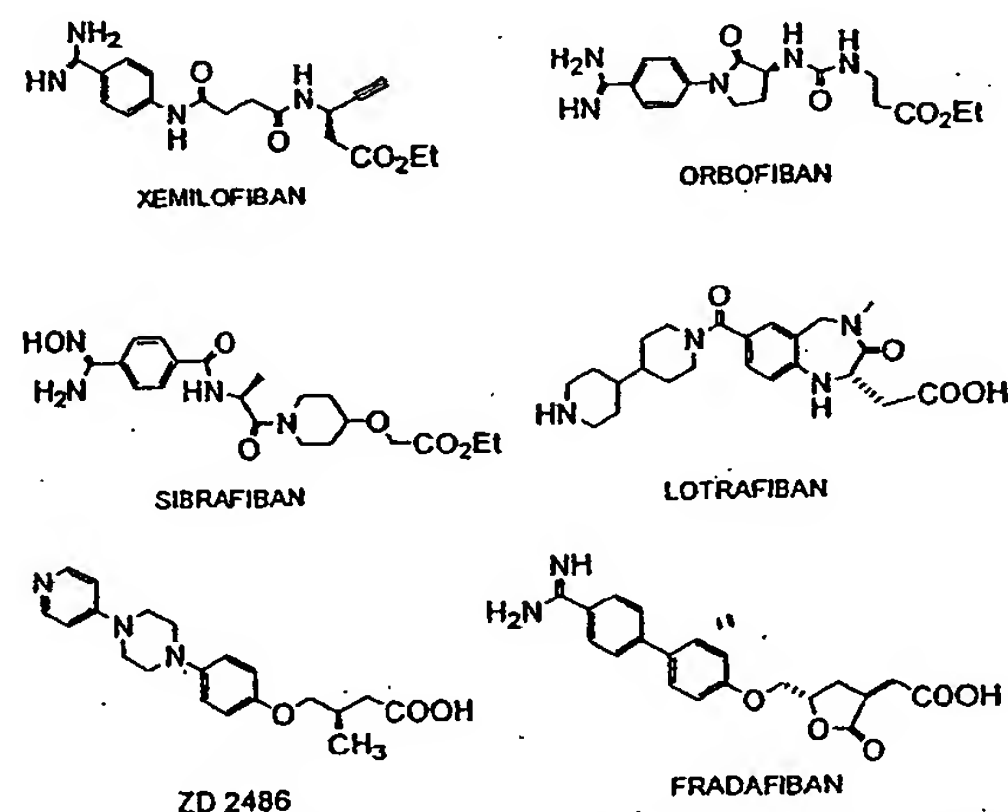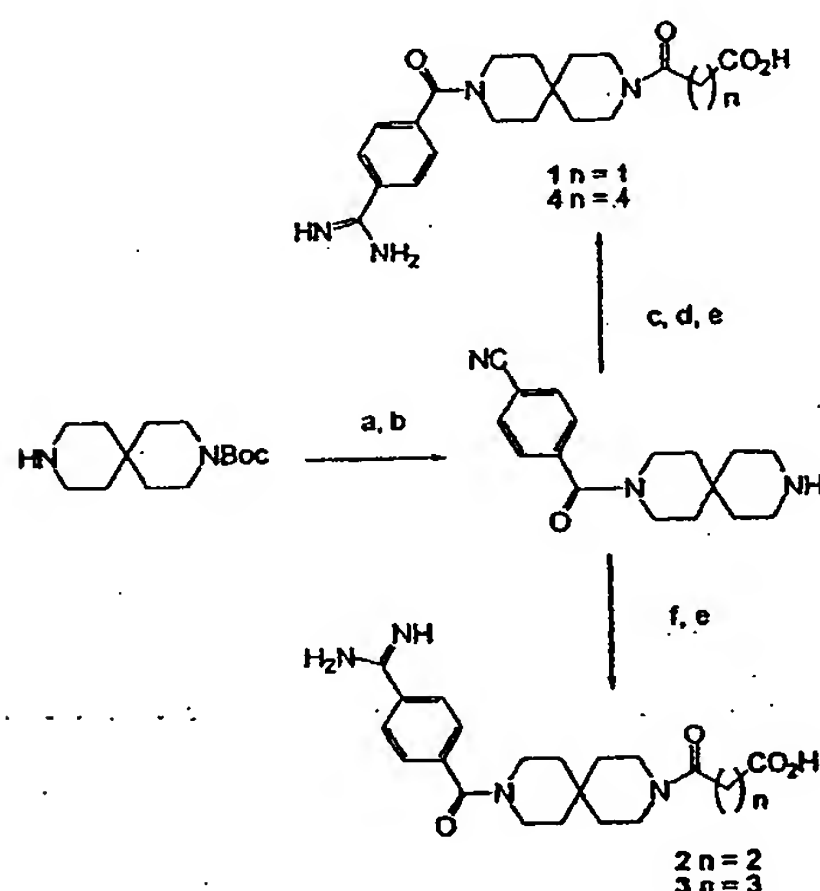

Figure 1. Representative oral nonpeptide GPIIb–IIIa antagonists in clinical development.
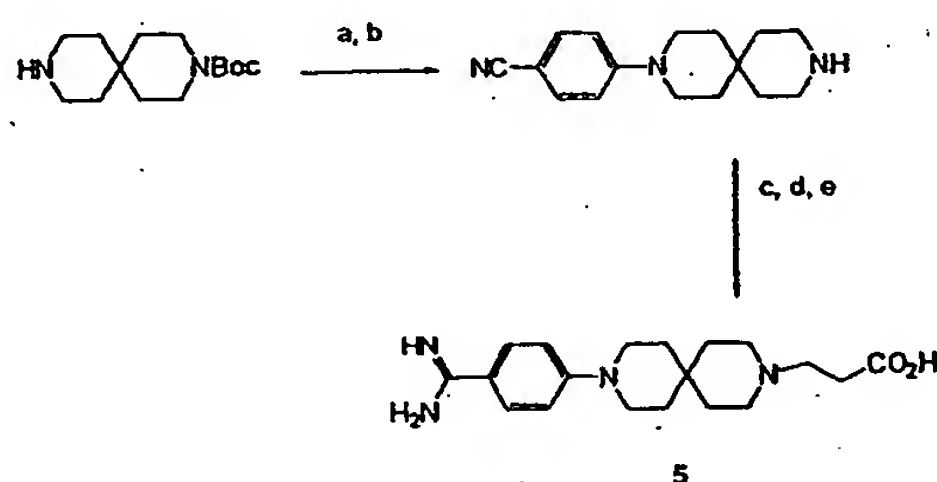
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active compounds leading them to conclude that the steric bulk and/or rigidity of the spirocyclic template resulted in poor complimentarity with the receptor. There has been one additional report wherein the 3,9-diazaspiro[5.5]undecane ring system has been utilized as the basic pharmacophore unit, rather than as a central template to prepare GPIIb–IIIa antagonists.[9]

As part of our effort to discover novel antagonists with improved bioavailability and duration of action, we initially investigated the 3,9-diazaspiro[5.5]undecane ring system as a suitable template for preparing potent and selective GPIIb–IIIa antagonists. We initiated our investigation of spirocycles by choosing the 3,9-diaza-spiro[5.5]undecane template, and also chose the benz-amidine ring system as the basic group to append to this nucleus. However, we also wished to study less basic groups such as the 4-aminopyridyl residue found in the Zeneca inhibitor, ZD2496 (Fig. 1).[10] The lower pK_a of the pyridine moiety has been postulated to be a major reason for the excellent bioavailability reported for ZD2496.
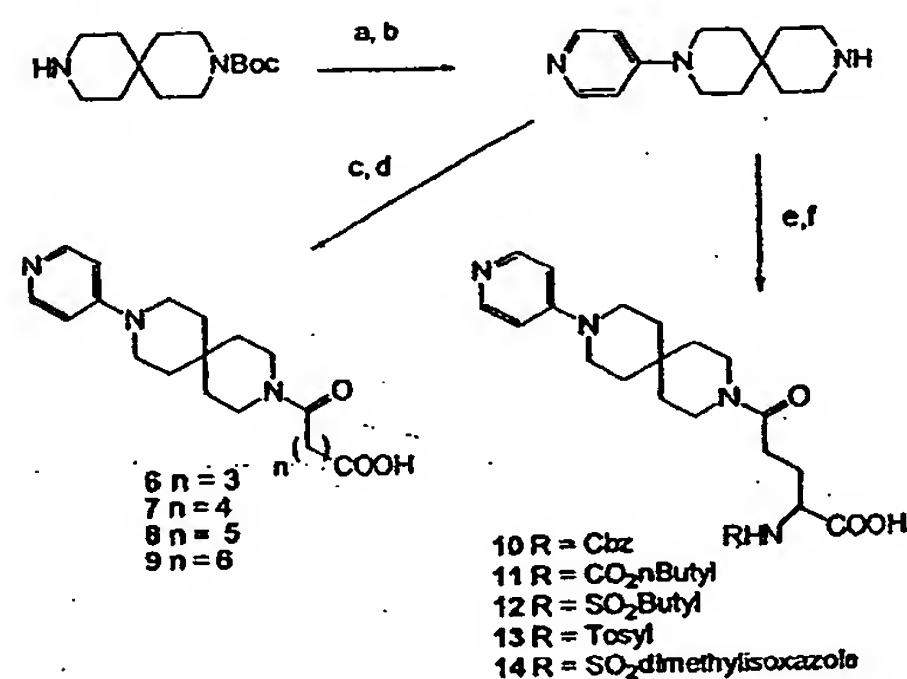
The synthesis of 3,9-diazaspiro[5.5]undecane nucleus follows published procedures.[9] A benzamidine moiety was incorporated using an amide or the direct linkage as shown in Schemes 1 and 2. The preparation of the required carboxylic acid side chains investigated in this study are shown in Schemes 5 and 6. Conversion of cyano to amidino functionality was carried out via the thiomethylimidate protocol or the hydroxyamidino method. The unsubstituted side-chain carboxylic acids used in compounds 1–4 (Scheme 1) and 6–9 (Scheme 3) were derived from the commercially available acid chloride esters or the appropriate anhydrides as shown in Schemes 1 and 3. Incorporation of the direct-linked benzamidines (Scheme 2) and 4-pyridyl groups (Scheme 3) into the spirocyclic template was accomplished utilizing a Pd-mediated coupling reaction.[11] Other more constrained carboxylic acid containing groups such as the piperidine-4-oxyacetic acid (Scheme 5 for synthesis) were coupled to the spiropyridine nucleus via the *p*-nitro-phenylcarbamate intermediate as shown in Scheme 4.

The biological activity of the 3,9-diazaspiro[5.5]unde-cane-containing analogues prepared in this study were evaluated in vitro by measuring their ability to inhibit the binding of fibrinogen to purified human GPIIb–IIIa in a 96-well format.[12] The compounds were also evaluated in functional assays, which determined their

Scheme 1. Synthesis of compounds 1–4: (a) 4-cyanobenzoyl chloride, TEA, DCM, DMAP; (b) TFA/DCM; (c) ClCO(CH₂)₁₋₄CO₂Et, TEA, DCM; (d) 1 N NaOH; (e) (i) H₂S, Et₃N, Pyr; (ii) MeI, acetone, rt; (iii) NH₄OAc, EtOH, reflux; (f) succinic or glutaric anhydride, Et₃N, DCM.

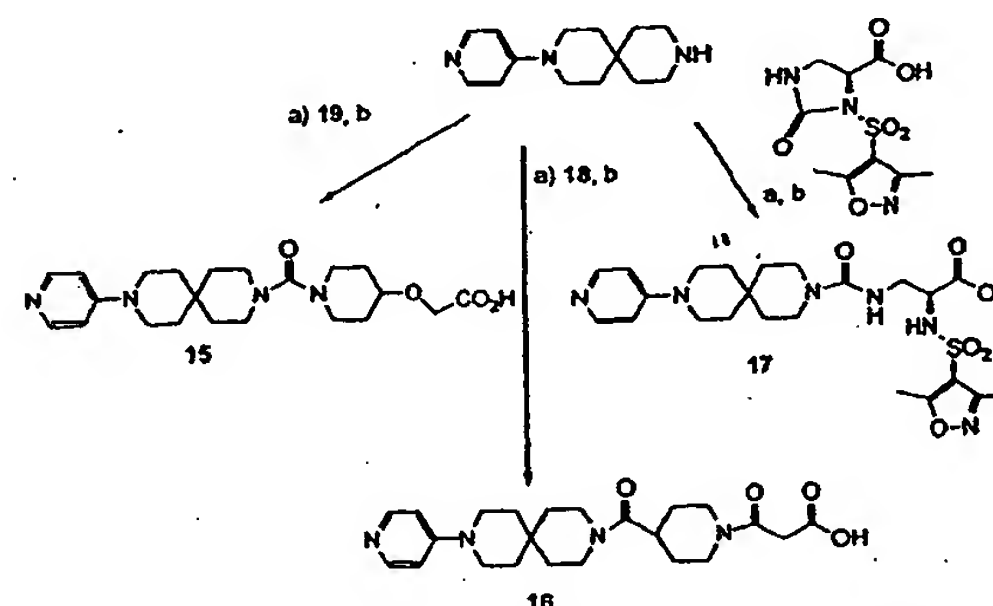**Scheme 3.** Synthesis of compounds 6–9: (a) 4-bromopyridine, Pd₂(dba)₃·CHCl₃, S-BINAP, t-BuONa, toluene, 85 °C; (b) TFA/DCM; (c) ClCO(CH₂)₃₋₆CO₂Et, DIEA, DCM; (d) 2 M HCl; (e) 20–24, HOBt, DIEA, DMF; (f) 2 M HCl.

Scheme 2. Synthesis of compound 5: (a) 4-bromobenzonitrile, Pd₂(dba)₃·CHCl₃, S-BINAP, t-BuONa, toluene, 85 °C; (b) TFA/DCM; (c) Br(CH₂)₂CO₂Et, DIEA, DCM; (d) LiOH, THF, H₂O; (e) (i) NH₂OH·HCl, Et₃N, EtOH; (ii) Ac₂O, AcOH, rt; (iii) 1 atm H₂, 10% Pd/C, EtOH.
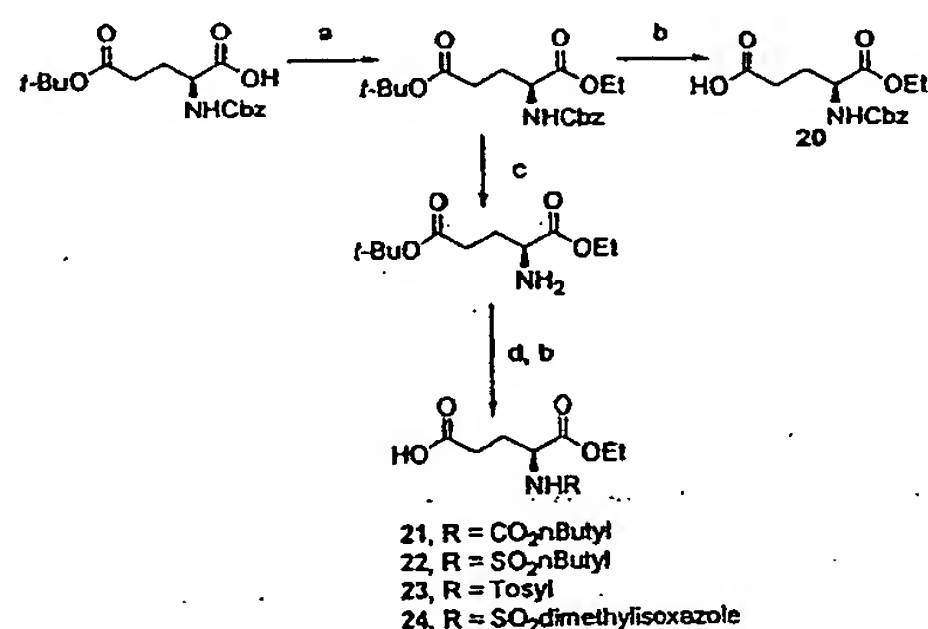
Scheme 4. Synthesis of compounds 15–17: (a) DMF, DIEA, 60 °C, DMF; (b) 2 M HCl.

ability to inhibit ADP-induced platelet aggregation in human platelet-rich plasma (PRP). Both benzamidine or pyridyl-containing analogues with simple carboxylic acid chains afforded modest potency (Tables 1 and 2). However, neither series displayed submicromolar IC_{50} values in PRP. From the initial series of pyridines, 6 appeared to have the optimal distance between the carbon atoms of the carboxylate and the basic nitrogen functionality, and this template was chosen for further structural modifications.

Incorporation of a rigid carboxylic acid moiety (analogues 15 and 16, Table 3) did not provide additional

Scheme 5. Synthesis of carboxylic acid segments 18 and 19. (a) BnOH, DCC, DMAP, DCM; (b) TFA, DCM; (c) ClCOCH₂CO₂Et, DIEA, DCM; (d) 10% Pd/C, H₂; (e) ethyl diazoacetate, Rh(OAc)₂-dimer; (f) p-nitrophenylchloroformate, DIEA, DMF.

21, R = CO₂nButyl
22, R = SO₂nButyl
23, R = Tosyl
24, R = SO₂dimethylisoxazole

Scheme 6. Synthesis of carboxylic acid segments 20–24. (a) EDC, HOBt, EtOH; (b) TFA, DCM; (c) Pd(OH)₂, 1 atm H₂, EtOH; (d) RSO₂Cl or ROCOCl, DIEA, DMF.

Table 1. In vitro activity for compounds with benzamidine group

Compds	R	ELISA Fg/GPIIb–IIa IC_{50} (μM)[a]	Human PRP IC_{50} (μM)[a]
1	COCH₂CO₂H	9.7	9.3
2	CO(CH₂)₂CO₂H	15	13.8
3	CO(CH₂)₃CO₂H	3.5	10.3
4	CO(CH₂)₄CO₂H	>100	18.8
5	CH₂CH₂CO₂H	0.16	1.15

[a]IC_{50} values expressed as the average of at least two determinations. The average error for the determinations was ±15%.

potency enhancement in the plasma based assay relative to compound 6. However, incorporation of α-amino substitution at the carboxylic acid segment significantly enhances the potency as seen for compounds 11–14 and 17 versus 6 (250-fold, Table 4). Incorporation of the 3,5-dimethylisoxazol-4-yl-sulfonamide moiety (14 and 17) stands out relative to other α-amino group substituents that were examined, affording inhibitors of ADP-induced aggregation in PRP with IC_{50} values <70 nM. These observations are consistent with the results published by Egbertson et al.[13] where it was proposed that the α-substituent of their tyrosine-derived GPIIb–IIIa antagonists may be interacting with an unexploited 'exosite' within GPIIb–IIIa leading to significant enhancement of the binding interactions. All active compounds of our spirocyclic series were found to have IC_{50} values >100 μM against the vitronectin receptor, $\alpha_v\beta_3$, the most closely related integrin to GPIIb–IIIa. Thus, both benzamidine and pyridine-containing analogues from

Table 2. In vitro activity for compounds with pyridines as the basic function

Compds	R	ELISA Fg/GPIIb–IIa IC_{50} (μM)[a]	Human PRP IC_{50} (μM)[a]
6	(CH₂)₃CO₂H	0.24	5.08
7	(CH₂)₄CO₂H	0.26	4.54
8	(CH₂)₅CO₂H	0.27	4.55
9	(CH₂)₆CO₂H	1.16	17.8

[a]See Table 1.

Table 3. Analogues with rigid carboxylic acid moiety

Compds	X	Y	R	ELISA Fg/GPIIb–IIa IC_{50} (μM)[a]	Human PRP IC_{50} (μM)[a]
15	N	CH	OCH₂CO₂H	0.21	2.65
16	CH	N	COCH₂CO₂H	0.043	1.17

[a]See Table 1.

Table 4. Modifications of the carboxylic acid function

Analogues	R	X	ELISA Fg/GPIIb–IIa IC_{50} (μM)[a]	Human PRP IC_{50} (μM)[a]
10	NHCBz	CH₂	0.007	4.58
11	NHCO₂nBut	CH₂	0.004	0.722
12	NHSO₂nBut	CH₂	0.023	0.768
13	NHSO₂Tos	CH₂	0.002	0.078
14	NHSO₂isoxazole	CH₂	0.002	0.021
17	NHSO₂isoxazole	NH	0.001	0.039

[a]See Table 1.

this study were found to be highly selective towards GPIIb–IIIa.

The pharmacokinetic properties of analogue **14** (CT51688) as its free acid and as its ethyl ester prodrug were evaluated in Sprague–Dawley rats. The oral bioavailability of **14** was found to be 7.3% but was quite rapidly cleared. The oral bioavailability of the ethyl ester prodrug of **14** was even less (3.2%) than its free acid form. Although we were not successful in identifying oral GPIIb–IIIa antagonists with good pharmacokinetic properties, the 3,9-diazaspiro[5.5]undecane template has afforded potent and specific antagonists of GPIIb–IIIa. Further exploration of this template and other spirocyclic templates will be the subject of additional communications from our laboratories.

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